

Advent

20 December 2015

TODAY

- Nursery (Room #102) during 10:30 Mass

MONDAY | Dec. 21

- Sg 2:8-14 / Lk 1:39-45
- Men's Bible Study (Room #101) 7am
- K of C Officers' Meeting (PC LL #1) 7pm

TUESDAY | Dec. 22

- 1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56
- Mass in Chapel (+Joe & Anne Mlynarchek) 8:30am
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (Chapel) 9am-7pm

WEDNESDAY | Dec. 23

- Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66
- Mass in Chapel (for all who are grieving) 6:30pm
- Cantor Practice 6:30pm
- Choir Practice 7pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES for THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass at 5:30pm

Is 62:1-5 / Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 / Mt 1:1-25

Mass During the Night at 10:30pm

(Festival of Carols begins at 10pm)

Is 9:1-6 / Ti 2:11-14 / Lk 2:1-14

Friday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Mass at 9:30am

Is 62:11-12 / Ti 3:4-7 / Lk 2:15-20

SATURDAY | Dec. 26 | St. Stephen, The First Martyr

- Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22
- Reconciliation/Confessions 4:45pm
- Contemporary Choir Practice 4:30pm

LORD'S DAY LITURGIES | December 27, 2015

The Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Col 3:12-21 / Lk 2:41-52

5:30pm Saturday

+John Brink +Joe Druke

8:30am Sunday

+David Weykamp (first anniversary) +Fred Ressel +Gerri Smith

10:30am Sunday

Parish Family

Bells, Books & Coats

*As you look ahead to celebrating Christmas with us,
please add these to your list:*

BELLS—Children are invited to bring little bells to the
5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve.

BOOKS—Check out our great selection of Christmas
books in our Media Center.

COATS—Make room at the inn by hanging your coats
or leaving them in your car for 5:30 p.m. Mass.



Grandville, Michigan
www.spxcatholic.org

Gift Giving
Prayer
Page 5

real people + real presence

... a welcoming Roman Catholic family of God
empowered by the Holy Spirit
to grow our relationship with Jesus Christ
and with one another
as we worship, pray, learn and serve.



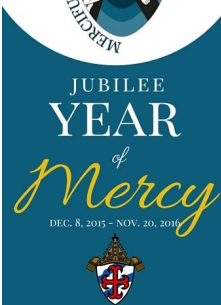
Blessed are you who believed....
Luke (1:45)

Living in Mercy

God's mercy is full of grace. God's mercy is grace. This is God's very life. Let us turn to face God all week. We do it when we turn to those who are near, to those in our home, to those at work or school, to those in the street—and behave like Gabriel (announce God's favor), behave like Mary (ask "How?" then say "Yes!").

- How will I find ways this week to say "yes" to God's good mercy?
- Who needs the mercy I can give?

Prepare for next week: Read and reflect on the Nativity of the Lord readings (beginning on pg. 53) and the Feast of the Holy Family (beginning on pg. 71) in the "Living Liturgy" missal.



ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC PARISH

3937 Wilson Ave. SW | Grandville, MI 49418
616-532-9344 | Fax: 616-538-6340

www.spxcatholic.org

Parish & Formation Office Hours:

9-Noon; 1-5pm Mon-Thurs 9-Noon on Fridays

Parish Book of Prayer — This book near the main church entrance is for your prayers of intercession or gratitude. They are part of the intentions at Mass.

Parish Membership — Count yourself in! If you worship with us regularly, kindly register as a parishioner. You'll receive parish mailings, and it will help us provide pastoral care should you need it. Contact 532-9344; or parishoffice@spxcatholic.org.

Infant Baptisms are celebrated at various times throughout the year. If you believe raising your child in our Catholic faith is one of your most important duties as a parent, call the parish office.

Sacrament of Marriage — The lifelong covenant between a man and a woman is a sign of God's covenant with us. At least six months of prayer and preparation are needed before entering this commitment. Please contact Fr. Chris as soon as you are engaged. Couples celebrating an anniversary ending in a "0" or "5" may request a special blessing.

OTHER MARRIAGE RESOURCES: www.foryourmarriage.org/

Pastoral Care of the Sick — If you or a loved one are seriously ill, homebound, or anticipating surgery, please contact Marjorie Flores or Fr. Chris in the parish office. The hospitals do not contact us.

PARISH OFFICE

Rev. Chris Rouech | Pastor
532-9344, ext. 107 | frchris@spxcatholic.org

Marilyn Beckwith | Business Manager
532-9344, ext. 102 | businessmanager@spxcatholic.org

Andy Rebollar | Pastoral Associate for Parish Life
532-9344, ext. 103 | arebollar@spxcatholic.org

Marjorie Flores | Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care & Christian Initiation
532-9344, ext. 106 | care@spxcatholic.org

Meghan Schaut | Director of Music
532-9344, ext. 136 | music@spxcatholic.org

Jane Goudelock | Administrative Assistant
532-9344, ext. 101 | parishoffice@spxcatholic.org

FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

Elizabeth Post | Director of Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 122 | epost@spxcatholic.org

Merry Hass | Coordinator of Youth Ministry
538-2600, ext. 137 | youth@spxcatholic.org

Glenda Trytko | Religious Education Coordinator
538-2600, ext. 121 | gtrytko@spxcatholic.org

Christine Verburg | Secretary, Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 120 | formation@spxcatholic.org

Sandy Grandy | Secretary, Faith Formation
538-2600, ext. 118 | youth@spxcatholic.org

Kim Lobert | Director of Maintenance
538-2600, ext. 116 | maintenance@spxcatholic.org

A late Advent View from 40th & Wilson

FR. CHRIS ROUECH
frchris@spxcatholic.org

**Consider this: Without "Mass," Dec. 25 is only "Christ."**

Which isn't necessarily bad. After all Jesus Christ is our king, shepherd, servant, lord, God, counselor, brother, savior, friend....

Whatever you call him, it's no wonder that our ancestors wanted to have a special Mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and what God's incarnation means for humanity.

As the great feast of Christmas approaches, I suspect that many of you have already decided which Mass you will attend. I know that many parishioners opt for neighboring parishes with earlier liturgies. Our schedule is on the front cover. If you're a youngster and attend the 5:30pm Mass on Christmas Eve, please bring a small bell. The 10:30pm Mass will begin in candlelight.

Know that the 5:30pm Mass will be extremely crowded (I hope!) The later Mass and Christmas Day Mass will be more prayerful and have plenty of room.

Knowing how cramped many people's schedules are, I considered leaving the rest of this space in the bulletin blank. The idea was to encourage you to leave some quiet space in each day to savor the presence. Set a timer for 6 minutes.

Turn off the television, radio and phones for a moment. Close your eyes and breathe in

God's love for you and all creation, breathe out God's love in care and service.

I decided not to leave the rest of this page blank because I discovered the following meditation:

Blessed are you who believe ✕

Enter the labor of love

We work so hard at Christmas. We spend time and money to make it beautiful, enjoyable, tasty and memorable, so it's easy to think of it as something we do rather than something *God* does for us.

Both Mary and Elizabeth are acutely aware of their ordinariness, their own "lowliness" as two women who know that the miracle happening in them is because of the favor and grace of God. This should take our breath away and stop us in our oh-so-busy pre-Christmas tracks. Jesuit poet Richard Stanley gets it right imagining Mary and Elizabeth at the Visitation:

*Elizabeth! Elizabeth,
I ran all the way,
you may not believe me. . .
I feel as big
as all outdoors.
I will somehow feed
the hungry and the sore;
that there is balm enough in me
for every pain; or anyone who's bent with shame,
my eyes alone might make straight again.*



Saint Francis of Assisi says we're all "pregnant" with Christ as "mothers of Christ when we carry him in our heart and in our body by divine love and with a pure and sincere conscience. We give birth to him through holy works which should shine forth as an example for others."

~Father Larry Janowski
© 2015 PREPARETHEWORD.COM



Faith Formation | Religious Education

ELIZABETH POST
epost@spxcatholic.org

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES will not meet from Dec. 20 through Jan. 9. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10.

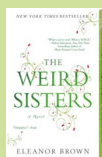
CAROLING: Our elementary students caroled with the residents at St. Ann's Home last week. The kids sang lovely Christmas songs and handed out handmade cards to the residents.



The Annual NATIVITY PROGRAM was held last week; thank you to all who participated...look for pictures in the upcoming bulletins.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE will be on Sunday, Jan. 10 at 5:30pm. On Jan. 17, we will head to 3 Mile Project; please arrive to Danner Hall by 4:45pm.

ADVENT WAS CELEBRATED last week by our Middle Schoolers. Our young teens made Advent books, treats, and gifts for the homebound of our parish.



NOVEL READERS BOOK CLUB meets at 7pm Monday, Jan. 4, in the McDuffee Room to discuss *The Weird Sisters* by Eleanor Brown. Contact Linda Stray (lindastray@yahoo.com or 249-8034) or Mary Boehm (meb2904@aol.com or 538-9635) with inquiries.

DAY of REFLECTION for MEN

"A Year of Mercy with St. Luke, Pope Francis & You"

Presenter: Fr Phil Shangraw | Saturday, Jan. 9 ~ 9am-3pm
Maranatha Conference Center (Muskegon, MI)

Begin the new year with a mini-retreat with other men from the diocese. Be enriched by the Eucharist, Father Phil's reflections, and time in conversation with other men. There will also be time for personal prayer and reflection.

Register with Pam at 616-842-8230 x125 by Dec. 31.

Coffee, rolls and lunch are provided; suggested donation \$20.



CROSSROADS PARISHES Catechetical Day

Fr. Phil Shangraw (keynote speaker)

**ICONS OF GOD'S MERCY:
JESUS, POPE FRANCIS, AND YOU!**

Saturday, January 30, 2016

8:00am – 3:30pm

at Holy Redeemer Parish

**REGISTER THROUGH ELIZABETH POST OR
HOLY REDEEMER PARISH**



High School Youth Ministry

MERRY HASS
mhass@spxcatholic.org



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT: The teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp were able to raise over \$1,900 towards our Mission Trip this summer through the Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser. Thanks to all who purchased the rolls!

SPIRITUAL STOCK: We are sending 65 volunteers to Catholic Heart Work Camp in the summer of 2016. We would really love your financial support. You can purchase Spiritual Stock in our teens for \$20 a share. All shareholders will be invited to a banquet in July to hear firsthand how their investment helped make a difference not only for our youth, but for the people they served in Springfield, IL. Contact the Formation Office at 538-2600 for more information.

The Big SNL

REUNION

Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015

Join us from 7-9pm in the Youth Room for

DINNER, FUN & FRIENDS!

All SNL Alumni and past/present

Adult Core Team Members are invited!

Please RSVP by Dec. 20
to Merry Hass at
mhass@spxcatholic.org
or 616.538.2600 x137

Past - Present - Always



Bishop David Walkowiak opened the Holy Door of the Cathedral of St. Andrew to begin the Jubilee of Mercy in our diocese. Read more about the Year of Mercy at dioceseofgrandrapids.org/mercy.



Parish Life

ANDY REBOLLAR
arebollar@spxcatholic.org

MARRIED COUPLES KICKOFF EVENT ~ Mark your calendars:

We're having our first of many events for married couples on Friday, Jan. 15 from 7-9pm at the parish. This event for all married couples is a chance to connect with your spouse, other couples, strengthen your marriage and have fun at the same time. More details in the coming weeks.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT ~ Euchre Tournament: Join us after Mass on Saturday, Jan. 30 in Danner Hall for dinner and a Euchre Tournament. The tournament will be for anyone 16 and older. We'll also have crafts, games, and other activities for kids not playing. An assortment of soups will be available for dinner; if possible, bring a snack to share. All are welcome!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: We have an active presence at **St. Pius X Catholic Parish**. "LIKE" us for updates on parish events and for resources and articles to help you grow in faith.

AS WE ENJOY THIS ADVENT SEASON, the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus would like to extend our sincerest "thank you" to our entire parish family. Your support throughout this past year has been deeply appreciated and is truly what allows us to be of service to one and to all. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a joy-filled New Year.



The council would also like to recognize it's newest members: **Felipe Gomez, Joe & Joey Hall, Jason Jaworowicz, Tom Shereda, and Gary Stutzky.**

Mass Assignments for Dec. 26 & 27

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR SPECIAL MASSES: Sign up in the back of church for our Christmas Masses and Mary Mother of God Mass.

| Mass Coord. | 5:30pm | 8:30am | 10:30am |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| | John Chrusciel | Tony & Sandy Grandy | Mary Lang |
| Greeters | Carol Brink C'Ann Tyson | Sandy Grandy Sue VanGessel | Kevin Gruszka Pat Milanowski |
| Servers | Isabel Castro Lucas Castro Pierison Rumble | Gabrielle Alvesteffer Luke Alvesteffer Walter Alvesteffer | Sarah Kelly Kiera Koetsier Mikayla Koetsier |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Mo Belliel Mary Cook Heather Dabbous Rosemary Holzgen Angie Lemont Harold Lemont Mary Lynch Diane Remenak Volunteer Needed | Betty Cole Mark Henderson Val Henderson Nancy Hogerheide Brittany Klein Deb Lampani Amanda London Jerry London Mary Rademacher | A.J. Burdick Joe Burdick Connor Fischer Dolores Jesnek Kathleen Kelly Jim Kohmescher Sharon Love Chris Marsh Jen Meyering Randy Miller Kate Ruemenapp Monica Tyler Nam Vu |
| Lector | Jennifer Castro Andrew Smith | Linda Polzin Shelly Gullett | Frank Cegelis John Agrusa |
| LWC | | | N/A |
| | Ushers: Team D | Ushers: Team C | Ushers: Team G |

St. Pius X Christmas Masses

The Nativity of the Lord

Dec. 24 ~ 5:30pm

Dec. 24 ~ 10:30pm (caroling begins at 10pm)

Dec. 25 ~ 9:30am

Christmas Masses at Neighboring Parishes:

Holy Name of Jesus | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

Holy Redeemer | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm, 6pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

St. Sebastian | Dec. 24 ~ 4:30pm, 7:30pm & 10pm | Dec. 25 ~ 10am

St. John Vianney | Dec. 24 ~ 4pm & 8pm | Dec. 25 ~ 9am

real people + real presence

Growing in Christ

Weekly Stewardship Report

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: As we draw close to the Feast of the Nativity, we hear the great stewardship proclamation twice in today's second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews: "Behold, I come to do your will, O God!" Who is this Jesus? Who are we that we should follow him? Many want him as a friend, a guide, a king, an advocate. Jesus reveals the nature of God, the servant sent to give us new life in God's house. Take time to ponder these questions: Do we have the courage to follow Jesus? Do we reflect God's nature in our daily life? Are we able to say with confidence: "Behold, I come to do your will"? from the ICSC December 2015 Catholic Stewardship e-Bulletin

Time and Talent

MASS ATTENDANCE

Dec. 12 & 13: 5:30pm— 319 | 8:30am— 251 | 10:30am—522

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES WERE MANY this year as gifts and food baskets were donated to families from St. Pius X and St. Joseph the Worker. Coats, gloves, and personal hygiene items were given to Degage; socks and eye glasses were given through the jail ministry. Thank you St. Pius X members for being so generous. And, to those who gave of their time...thank you! Christmas blessings to all!

Treasure

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS was held last weekend. Many sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—these saints in our midst—are elderly. While some continue in volunteer ministry, others are frail and need care. Most worked for years for small stipends, leaving their religious communities without adequate savings to meet growing retirement and eldercare needs. Please pray for God's blessing on all religious and give generously to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Envelopes are available in the back of church and can be turned in until the end of 2015.



| PARISH SUPPORT | Last week | Year to Date | Prior Year to Date |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Week 24/52 | 12/12&12/13 | | |
| Adult Envelopes | \$ 13,442 | \$ 299,210 | \$ 316,163 |
| Electronic Giving spxcatholic.org | \$ 2,750 | \$ 102,071 | \$ 93,954 |
| Youth Envelopes | \$ 1 | \$ 84 | \$ 238 |
| Loose Offerings | \$ 873 | \$ 15,015 | \$ 13,596 |
| Total Contributions | \$ 17,066 | \$ 416,380 | \$ 423,951 |
| Budget Overage/(Shortfall) | \$ (1,179) | \$ (16,502) | |
| OTHER GIVING | | | |
| Master's Mission | \$ 505 | \$ 17,118 | \$ 17,080 |
| Retirement for Religious | \$ 2,737 | \$ 2,737 | |

St. Pius X has 1,009 registered households. Last week, 299 contributed either by using an offertory envelope or electronically. Every gift is gratefully received as a sacrifice united with Christ's own self-offering in the Eucharist to share God's love.

Our prayer list for healing

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick in our Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound, and those in care facilities. To be included on the Prayer Chain (separate from this bulletin list), call Jason George at (231) 736-7487.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jenny Walsh | Gerry Dekkinga | Bob Brock | Frank Cegelis |
| Kenneth Schumacher | Mary LaSarge | Jennifer Cook | Erika Yonker |
| Kelsey Gibson | Joe Tuszyński | Bernard Trost | Marie Nevins |
| Pat Deuling | Catherine Cesare | Diane & Mary Prindle | Andy Wierzbicki |
| Vera Bartz | Henry Visscher | Betty DiTrapani | Claudia Shaub |
| Beverwyk Family | Joe & Margaret Grandy | Rose Reilly | Judy Wojtas |
| Anthony McAndrew | M. Forrester | Laurie Bialik | Sally Thome |
| Nicole Tullio | Marty Schumacker | Margaret Harman | Pat Chichester |
| Terry Freybler | John Stoddard | Carol Guffy | Bob & Holly Ann Ott |
| Pat & Nancy Krupp | Derek Bull | Shannon Olman | Diane Austin |
| Rich Hubbard | Stephen Meurer | Dorothy Rennager | Linda Meagher |
| Kathy Maslowski | Scott Holzgen | Patrick Bartz | Ilene Topolinski |
| Deb Russo | Tom & Becky Hoffmann | Ellen O'Toole | Sarah Johnson |
| Catherine Owens | Mike Connell | Edward Kaminski | Justin Vriezema |
| Jeff Zylstra | Mary Jebb | Markell Barnhart | Josina Galaszewski |
| Skylar Martin | Mary Beth Jensen | Pat Rummer | Robert Ryzanca |
| Cindy Cole | Megan Reynolds | Lloyd & Caroline Skaya | Mary Benson-Slosser |
| Jill Moyer | Diane Rudnik | Leo Raap | Lois McCarty |
| Nell Wouters | Lorraine Lutker | Bernita Stegewsans | Martha VanDyke |
| Brianne Bassett | Tucker Potter | Roberta Hagen | Jackson & Lauren Peters |
| Tom Wojtas | Winnie Kulaga | Jonathan Kolenda | Tracy Woodruff |
| Kerry Deboer | Noah Ziegler | Mike Sartorius | John Blanchard |
| Sr. Jean Marie Wojtas | Pat DeJong | Norm Pokora | Linda Wood |
| Terri Bernott | Clara Jo Braybrook | Barbara Barney | Zachary Matzke |
| Ann Berg | Jane Voss | Chuck Seguna | Pam Willemstein |
| George & Virginia Bieber | Gisela Foote | Judy Perrin | Bob Bagin |
| Matt Rich | Judy Clinger | Allen Mulligan | Karen Bourassa |
| Christina Geldersma | Donna Waters | Sandy Ressel | Robert Schab |
| Deb Finnigan | Jim & Mary Norcutt | Charles Frodl | Ann Partridge |
| Jennifer Hassell | | | |

Pastoral Care

MARJORIE FLORES
mflores@spxcatholic.org



THE DEDICATION OF FIVE CANDLES ~ A prayer of grief and hope



If you lost a loved one and would like a special prayer over the holidays to grieve and celebrate their life, please visit the St. Pius X website (spxcatholic.org) for the Dedication of Five Candles prayer. This is a beautiful ritual that can be used individually or in family gatherings to honor someone special that has passed away.

PRAYER SHAWLS: Our prayer shawl crafters have been busy knitting and crocheting shawls in prayer. Shawls are available to any parishioner who has a family member that is sick or struggling and in need of a comforting embrace. If you are interested in receiving a shawl to gift to your family, please contact me at 532-9344 or email me.

EMPLOYMENT & RESOURCE NETWORK: The work search ministry at St. Robert (in Ada) invite you to join them for their next two meetings on Dec. 23 & Jan. 6 from 9:30-11:30am. This group provides emotional support and personal coaching in finding new work. Contact Bill Weitzel at 446-1873 for more information.

When choosing which businesses to patronize, please choose those who advertise in this bulletin. Their support pays for this publication.

Christopher Stock, M.D.
Medical & Surgical Eye Care
See our ad on back page

Readings and Prayers for Gift Opening

The sound rang out o'er Bethlehem hills
As shepherds shook with fear,
A song of peace to all the world:
God's perfect gift is here.
"You'll find a baby wrapped in cloth
Where sheep and cattle feed."
The shepherds ran to see the child,
God's perfect gift, indeed.
When searching for that perfect gift,
The sign of God's true love,
One needs to look no further than
The gift from heaven above.

Before Gift-giving

Heavenly Father,

The humble cloths which swaddled your most precious gift were a sign to all the world of your abundant love. Let these presents which we share with one another be a simple reminder of your love and presence each day.

In Christ our Savior's name. Amen

After Gift-giving

Lord Jesus Christ,

To become this world's "special delivery" you left your heavenly throne and wrapped yourself in human garb. It is only through your gift that we may be delivered to our eternal home with you.

We offer you our thanks and praise. Amen

By David Mead © 2010 by Creative Communications for the Parish,
1564 Fencorp Dr. Fenton, MO 63026 800-325-9414. creativecommunications.com.
All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

MIDNIGHT MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL

TELEVIEWED ON FOX 17: Midnight Mass on Dec. 25 will be broadcast live from the Cathedral of St. Andrew on FOX 17 (check your local listings) and online on the diocesan website, dioceseofgrandrapids.org. The live broadcast of Catholic Mass is a ministry to the homebound and imprisoned, provided by the diocese for the last 60 years. Video of the Mass will be available for viewing in its entirety on the diocesan website on Christmas Day.



